

IPS officer R Prasad Meena appointed DG in NHRC



NEW DELHI, Dec 8 (PTI)

SENIOR IPS officer R Prasad Meena was appointed Director General (Investigation) in the National Human Rights Commission on Saturday, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

Meena, a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is currently Special Director General in the Border Security Force.

He has been appointed as Director General (Investigation) in NHRC till his superannuation on July 31, 2025, the order said.

Tribal girl found dead at Sandeshkhali

<https://www.thestatesman.com/bengal/tribal-girl-found-dead-at-sandeshkhali-1503373332.html>

There was tension in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas today after the body of a tribal girl was recovered from a pond near her house.

SNS | Kolkata | December 8, 2024 7:28 am

There was tension in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas today after the body of a tribal girl was recovered from a pond near her house. She had been missing for three days.

Her body was found with her hands and feet tied, leading to initial suspicions of murder. However, it is yet to be confirmed if she was sexually assaulted. The incident happened in Ghatiyara area of Kalingar Gram Panchayat, under the Nazat police station of Sandeshkhali.

The girl was a resident of Ghoshpur in the same area and was a higher secondary student. She had left home on the afternoon of 4 December but did not return, prompting her family to search for her. After failing to locate her despite checking with relatives and friends, the family filed a missing person report at the Nazat police station. Despite their efforts, no leads emerged.

On Saturday morning, locals discovered a body floating in a pond in Ghatiyara, about 500 meters from her home. The police were informed and arrived at the scene to recover the body. It was found with hands and feet tied. Upon identification, the family claimed that she had been murdered and her body disposed of in the pond. They also suspected the possibility of sexual assault before the murder.

The police have sent the body to the Basirhat Health District morgue for autopsy. Preliminary investigations suggest murder, but confirmation of sexual assault awaits the post-mortem report. Investigators are currently examining the deceased's call records and speaking to her family to gather more information. Dr Archana Majumder, member, National Commission for Women (NCW) sought justice for the girl. "A tribal girl's body was found in a pond at Ghoshpur, Sandeshkhali, West Bengal. Missing since 04/12/2024, her body was found on 07/12/2024 with clear signs of assault. Justice must prevail. @NCWIndia," wrote Dr Majumder.

Krishnendu Goswami, a human rights activist, said it requires a high power committee investigation to confirm the exact cause of murder of a tribal student. "We are also drawing the attention of the Union home ministry as well as the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)," said Mr Goswami. Village people demanded a high-level probe. "The girl went to their farm house with her mother on 4 December. Around 4 pm her

mother returned to her residence and daughter was behind her, some distance away. But she did not return. Villagers and neighbours searched for her but could not find her. Her body this morning was fished out. We suspected she was kidnapped and murdered," said a village woman.

NHRC Calls for Action to Prevent Manual Scavenging Deaths

<https://en.themooknayak.com/governance/nhrc-calls-for-action-to-prevent-manual-scavenging-deaths>

Commission seeks ATR within six weeks

The Mooknayak English Published on:

09 Dec 2024, 12:56 am

Bhubaneswar– The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is demanding answers from authorities following the continued deaths of laborers cleaning sewers and septic tanks across India. The NHRC issued notices to the Chief Secretary of Delhi and the District Magistrates of Darbhanga (Bihar), Kozhikode (Kerala), Cuttack (Odisha), and Tiruvallur (Tamil Nadu) on December 8th, demanding an Action Taken Report (ATR) within six weeks.

The move comes after a petition filed by activist and advocate Radhakanta Tripathy brought the issue to the NHRC's attention. Tripathy highlighted the recent deaths of sanitation workers in Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and other states, citing data from the Central government revealing 453 deaths since 2014. This statistic is particularly concerning given that 732 of India's 766 districts have declared themselves free from manual scavenging.

The NHRC expressed serious concern over the state authorities' inability to prevent these deaths, despite Supreme Court directives and the NHRC's own advisory. The Commission also directed the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to implement measures to prevent these tragedies. The NHRC has also asked the authorities to submit the ATR within six weeks of receiving the order.

Tripathy emphasized that these deaths are not only a violation of human rights but also of Supreme Court orders on preventing manual scavenging. He further pointed out that the victims, predominantly from the Dalit community, face discrimination and a clear violation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act.

The activist called for the NHRC's intervention to ensure proper rehabilitation for the families of the deceased and urged for exemplary action plans to prevent future incidents. He stressed that the lack of robust policies reflects a societal disregard for the issues faced by marginalized communities in India.

Tamil Nadu urged to halt eviction of Manjolai estate workers

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Dec/08/dhobi-ghat-impractical-say-laundry-workers-in-tamil-nadus-srirangam>

People's Watch executive director Henri Tiphagne and high court advocate Robert Chandra also urged the state government to provide a timeline for the eviction process.

Express News Service Updated on: 08 Dec 2024, 8:24 am 1 min read

MADURAI: After the Tirunelveli district administration attempted to evict the former workers and their family members from the Manjolai estate earlier in the day based on the Madras High Court's verdict, People's Watch executive director Henri Tiphagne and high court advocate Robert Chandra Kumar urged the state government to halt the eviction process until all arrangements are in place. They also urged the state government to provide a timeline for the eviction process.

At a joint press meet, Robert said a team of officials, including hundreds of police personnel reached the place without issuing any prior notice. The court verdict does not mention immediate eviction. "The houses and rehabilitation process are incomplete. The company has already stopped providing the facilities that were earlier provided to the workers, including access to education, hospital, drinking water and transportation (excluding one emergency vehicle)," he said.

Tiphagne said they plan to file review petitions for the cases and also need time for the same. Recently, NHRC directed the state's chief secretary to make sure basic amenities are provided to the workers. However, officials led by the sub-collector set up camp on Saturday with the objective of evicting the workers.

NHRC asks MHA, Lt. Governor of Ladakh to consider human rights issues in the UT

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2024/Dec/08/nhrc-asks-mha-lt-governor-of-ladakh-to-consider-human-rights-issues-in-the-ut-2>

The apex rights panel asked the authorities to ensure the needful actions, within a reasonable time span.

Suchitra Kalyan Mohanty Updated on: 08 Dec 2024, 6:19 pm 2 min read

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and the advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Ladakh to gracefully consider the issues raised by the human rights defender.

The apex rights panel asked the authorities to ensure the needful actions, within a reasonable time span.

Acting on a petition filed by Supreme Court advocate and noted human rights activist, Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order.

The petitioner, Tripathy, has drawn the attention of the NHRC towards the alleged lack of initiatives by the Center and the UT Governments towards the people of Ladakh, who are facing challenges and live with fragile socio-economic, environmental and ecological issues.

Tripathy has requested to ensure the basic human rights of the inhabitants/residents of Ladakh and to initiate meaningful dialogue with the stakeholders involved in the protests, including representatives from Ladakh's local communities, political leaders and civil society organizations etc.

"Climate activists have flagged concerns regarding mining in the glacial ecology. Four years have passed since the establishment of the Union Territory, but the absence of a public service commission has created a sense of anger among the youths," Tripathy said.

"A glaring issue compounds this situation-the lack of a comprehensive job policy within the Union Territory," he said.

The autonomy granted under the Sixth Schedule can facilitate the formulation and implementation of locally relevant development initiatives, leading to improved socio-economic outcomes, he said.

"The establishment of autonomous councils under the Sixth Schedule would strengthen democratic institutions at the grassroots level, promoting inclusive governance and accountability," Tripathy added.

The inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule was earlier recommended by the NCST. In the prevailing situation, the pastoral tribes lose access to grazing lands. Since the issue involves the various dimensions of human rights, the right to agitate in a peaceful manner is also to be respected, the commission needs to take care of various human rights issues involved in the entire episode, he pointed out.

The inaction of the Union Government and the UT Government in handling the issues raised by the locals pose serious questions of human rights, the plea contended.

The petition requested the NHRC to recommend the Center and the UT Government to examine the adverse impact of the industrial and commercial activities at present and as proposed by the Government and to submit a comprehensive report on the matter.

The petition also requested the NHRC to recommend the NDMA, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health be asked to submit reports with respect to the adverse impact on the eco-system in case the Government proposals are executed.

The Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai or Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad or any other institution of high repute be asked to make a thorough detailed analysis, socially, scientifically, and economically along with the Constitutional Provisions and submit a comprehensive report in this regard, he said.

NHRC finds anomalies in several PDS outlets in Jamshedpur, Seraikela-Kharsawan district

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ranchi/nhrc-uncovers-major-irregularities-in-public-distribution-system-in-jamshedpur/articleshow/116110224.cms>

Dec 8, 2024, 09.05 PM IST

Jamshedpur: Many beneficiaries, mostly from poor families were deprived of food grains distributed through the public distribution system (PDS) in Jamshedpur and adjoining Seraikela-Kharsawan, National Human Rights Commission's rapporteur for Jharkhand, Suchitra Sinha, said. Based on the complaints of these deprived beneficiaries, Sinha conducted raids at several PDS outlets in the past few days to take stock of the situation.

Talking to TOI, Sinha said, "The raids conducted at various PDS outlets revealed gross anomalies where beneficiaries' thumb impressions were collected through the biometric system but were not given food grains. After recording their fingerprints, the beneficiaries were given hand-written notes on plain paper, informing them about the date when food grains would be distributed. But when they went to collect rice and wheat on the specified date, most of them had to return empty-handed as they were informed that food grains stocks had exhausted. This had been happening over a long period.

"Moreover, registers at godowns and shops showed several loopholes and discrepancies. Many of the shops also used faulty measuring machines to dupe the beneficiaries," she said.

Sinha, a former IAS officer, further said, "Many of the PDS shops exist only in ration cards but their addresses could not be traced physically. The beneficiaries associated with such PDS outlets have never received any rice, wheat or other items issued by the govt. The staff of my office have received many threats over the phone to stop the surprise visits to the PDS outlets, owned by powerful persons, threatening them with dire consequences."

On the difficulties faced during the raids, Sinha said, "Vinod Kumar Jha and Lal Sardar, who own PDS outlets in the Jugsalai area and were summoned for questioning, never appeared and kept their mobile phones switched off. Beneficiaries have lodged several complaints against them."

The shops she raided included -- Maa Mansa Mahila Samiti PDS Centre (Adardih), Chandra Mohan Gorai PDS Centre, (Adardih), Om Prakash Sharma PDS Centre (Sonari), Amresh Kumar PDS Centre (Sakchi), Anand Deo Rajak PDS Centre (Sonari),

Anita Devi PDS Centre (Sonari), Ajay Kumar PDS Centre (Jugsalai) and Anil Kumar Chaudhary PDS Centre (Jugsalai).

Informing that a report in this regard has been prepared and would be submitted to the NHRC soon, Sinha added, "The govt should take a serious note of such anomalies as they concern the welfare of the poor. If PDS owners in city areas are openly flouting norms, those in villages may be worse as the beneficiaries have less contact with the officials."

NHRC seeks action taken report on deaths of workers due to sewage cleaning, manual scavenging

<https://www.socialnews.xyz/2024/12/08/nhrc-seeks-action-taken-report-on-deaths-of-workers-due-to-sewage-cleaning-manual-scavenging/>

Posted By: Gopi December 8, 2024

Bhubaneswar, Dec 8 (SocialNews.XYZ) The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, government of Delhi and the District Magistrates of Darbhanga in Bihar, Kozhikode in Kerala, Cuttack in Odisha and Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu seeking Action Taken Report (ATR) in connection with the unabated deaths of labourers during sewage cleaning and manual scavenging.

The authorities have been asked to submit the ATR within six weeks of the receipt of the order. The commission issued the directions while acting on a petition filed by rights activist and advocate Radhakanta Tripathy.

"It is a matter of serious concern that the state authorities are unable to prevent deaths on account of sewage cleaning/ manual scavenging despite the directions issued by the Supreme Court and the Advisory issued by this Commission on the matter," observed the NHRC.

The Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has also been directed by the NHRC to ensure needful measures for preventing the deaths related to sewage cleaning/ manual scavenging.

The complainant drew the attention of the commission towards deaths and injuries of workers due to sewage cleaning/ manual scavenging in Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other states in the recent past.

Quoting data shared by the Central government in August this year, the complainant highlighted that as many as 453 people have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks since 2014, even as 732 of India's 766 districts declared themselves free from manual scavenging.

"Such deaths are not just a gross violation of human rights; they also violate the various Supreme Court orders on Prevention of Manual Scavenging. Besides, since each and every person involved in this work and henceforth dying in the pits belong to the Dalit community, these deaths are also a clearcut violation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act," alleged Tripathy.

He further accused those deaths of sanitation workers in sewers and septic tanks as an ongoing human rights crisis in India.

Tripathy stated that the absence of robust policies reflects a broader societal indifference towards issues affecting the marginalised communities in India.

He sought the intervention of the NHRC to ensure proper rehabilitation of the deceased families and recommended exemplary action plans to check such fatal incidents in the future.

Source: IANS